

Overview: What Obstetricians-Gynecologists Need to Know

Disease Burden

United States:*

- 1.25 million people chronically infected with hepatitis B virus (HBV)
- 20-39 year olds have the highest rates of HBV infection
- 20,000 hepatitis B surface antigen-positive (HBsAg-positive) pregnant women expected annually
- 1,000 infants chronically infected with HBV annually due to infected mothers not being identified and not receiving appropriate post-exposure prophylaxis at birth
- 52% of HBsAg-positive pregnant women not identified (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Estimate)

Michigan:

- 300 infants born to HBsAg-positive women reported annually
- 396-597 number of infants born to HBsAg-positive women should be identified annually

Prevention

Prenatal care providers need to:

- Test every pregnant woman during every pregnancy for HBsAg
- Inform pregnant women of HBsAg status
- Send copy of HBsAg test result for this pregnancy to delivery hospital

If the patient is HBsAg-positive:

- Report results to local health department (LHD) within 24 hours
- Counsel and provide or refer for medical evaluation and case management

If the patient is HBsAg-negative:

- Assess risk for HBV infection
- Counsel and provide transmission and prevention education
- Vaccinate if high risk
- Retest during last trimester if high risk

* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines for Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Case Management, January 2005.